



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**WORK SESSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Work Session Meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, via Videoconference.

Mayor Adler called the Council Meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**BRIEFING**

- B1. Briefing on matters relating to COVID-19 including prospective budget impacts.  
Presentation was made by Dr. Mark Escott, Medical Director, Stephanie Hayden, Director, Austin Public Health Department, Juan Ortiz, Director, Office of Emergency Management, Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Deputy City Manager, Jon Hockenyos, President, TXP, Inc. Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Veronica Briseno, Director, Economic Development Department.

Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Mayor Adler reconvened the meeting at 1:19 p.m.

**BRIEFING CONTINUED**

- B1. Briefing on matters relating to COVID-19 including prospective budget impacts.  
Discussion continued.

Direction was given to staff to provide additional information on how the higher education institutions are assisting possibly with use of college dorms; information on where donations can be made; information on the number of positive cases within the area nursing homes; provide contact information for the Nursing Home taskforce and City Committees that have been created; information on the types of communication occurring in the West Campus area; point of contact for construction issues and compliance; analyze options for adjusting the budget adoption schedule; recommendations on job training and digital access will be needed as the City recovers; information on updated projected general fund revenues; the timeline and options for expediting the process for releasing rental assistance funds; to distribute information regarding the Mayor's Order and the Council Ordinance relating to

**evictions; plans to augment our human and capital infrastructure that would ensure the City and our residents are more resilient.**

### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

9. Approve an ordinance adopting the Third Amendment to the First Amended and Restated Agreement Concerning the Creation and Operation of Senna Hills Municipal Utility District to change uses and impose certain conditions. This action concerns land located within the Barton Springs Zone.
30. Approve a resolution related to magistration services provided by Austin Municipal Court judges, and reforms to end wealth-based detention and improve equity in the Travis County justice system. Council Sponsors: Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, Council Member Gregorio Casar, Council Member Jimmy Flannigan, Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison.
33. Approve a resolution relating to assistance for and protections of customers of financial institutions. Council Sponsors: Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, Mayor Steve Adler, Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, Council Member Gregorio Casar.
77. Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund (Ordinance 20190910-001) to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 for the Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE) Fund to support COVID-19 emergency relief to supplement but not supplant Federal and State funding, and declaring an emergency. Council Sponsors: Council Member Gregorio Casar, Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, Mayor Steve Adler, Council Member Kathie Tovo, Council Member Sabino 'Pio' Renteria.
83. Conduct a public hearing and approve an ordinance adopting a moratorium on city utility disconnections, waiving city utility late fees, extending the deadline for commercial and multifamily energy audit and benchmark reporting, reducing certain city electric and water rates, expanding eligibility for the city utilities' customer assistance program to include individuals experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, amending the fiscal year 2019-2020 budgets of Austin Water and Austin Energy to appropriate up to \$10,000,000 for the utilities' Plus-One payment assistance programs, and declaring an emergency.

**The Mayor recessed the meeting to go into Executive Session at 2:45 p.m.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**The City Council went into Executive Session, pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, to receive advice from Legal Counsel, to discuss matters of land acquisition, litigation, and personnel matters as specifically listed on this agenda and to receive advice from Legal Counsel regarding any other item on this agenda.**

- E1. Discuss legal issues related to open government matters (Private consultation with legal counsel - Section 551.071 of the Government Code).

**Withdrawn**

- E2. Discuss legal issues related to Acuna et al v. City of Austin et al, Cause No. D-1-GN-19-008617, in the 201st District Court, Travis County, Texas (Private consultation with legal counsel-Section 551.071 of the Government Code).
- E3. Discuss legal issues related to line of duty leave under the Texas Local Government Code (private consultation with legal counsel - Section 551.071 of the Government Code)

**The Mayor announced that item 81 would be taken up in Executive Session.**

- 81. Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute amendments to existing social services contracts and to negotiate and execute new emergency contracts funded from the Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE) Fund to offer immediate support services and direct financial assistance to residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis. Council Sponsors: Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, Council Member Gregorio Casar, Mayor Steve Adler, Council Member Kathie Tovo, Council Member Sabino 'Pio' Renteria.

**Executive Session ended and the Mayor reconvened the meeting at 4:40 p.m.**

- 81. Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute amendments to existing social services contracts and to negotiate and execute new emergency contracts funded from the Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE) Fund to offer immediate support services and direct financial assistance to residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis. Council Sponsors: Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, Council Member Gregorio Casar, Mayor Steve Adler, Council Member Kathie Tovo, Council Member Sabino 'Pio' Renteria.

**Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved on this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2020 on Council Member Alter's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Garza's second on an 11-0 vote.**